

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1980

S E C R E T MADRID 3650

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJ: MEMORANDUM FROM STABLER TO THE SECRETARY

REF: MADRID 3613

1. UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROVIRA CALLED ME TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE LATE THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS SUBJ OF REFTEL. HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING MY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER MAY 27, ARIAS HAD TELEPHONED HIM AND EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS NOT BEING PLEASED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED MEETING WITH THE GROUP OF SPANIARDS. ROVIRA INDICATED THAT ARIAS HAD REFERRED TO THE LIST AS CONTAINING MEMBERS OF THE "OPPOSITION". I INTERRUPTED ROVIRA TO POINT OUT THAT I HAD SHOWN ARIAS THE FULL LIST AND THAT THE ONLY PERSON ON THAT LIST WHO COULD BE CONSIDERED "DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION" WAS RUIZ GIMENEZ. I THEN CITED TO ROVIRA MOST OF THE NAMES ON THE LIST AND HE HAD TO AGREE THAT THESE MEN COULD HARDLY BE DESCRIBED AS "OPPOSITION".

2. ROVIRA THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD INFORMED CORTINA OF ARIAS' ACCOUNT OF MY CALL AND HAD INDICATED, BASED ON WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM, THAT THE LIST CONTAINED MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION. ROVIRA ALSO SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN UPSET BY WHAT HAD
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HAPPENED AT THE DPC IN BRUSSELS, ALTHOUGH FULLY RECOG-

NIZING THE POSITIVE ROLE WE HAD PLAYED. THE SPANISH MILITARY WERE PARTICULARLY ANNOYED AND INSULTED BY THE TREATMENT OF SPAIN BY A NUMBER OF THE NATO ALLIES AND THEIR SHARP AND NEGATIVE REACTION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO ARIAS. ARIAS HAD ALSO BEEN CONCERNED WITH THE LACK OF TIME ALLOTTED FOR CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND FRANCO. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PROPOSAL THAT I HAD MADE TO ARIAS HAD CAUGHT HIM AT A BAD MOMENT.

3. WHILE WE WERE TALKING, ROVIRA ANSWERED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM CORTINA IN PARIS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TELEPHONE CALL, ROVIRA TOLD ME THAT CORTINA HAD SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE SECRETARY IN PARIS AND THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT BE PURSUED. I TOLD ROVIRA THAT I TOOK NOTE OF WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME AND SAID THAT I HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY INSTRUCTIONS.

4. COMMENT: I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ARIAS DID, IN FACT , DISCUSS THE QUESTION WITH FRANCO.

5. SINCE ABOVE WAS DRAFTED, I HAVE RECEIVED SECTO 2034. I HAVE CONVEYED TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THAT THE MATTER IS DROPPED.
STABLER

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